

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled.)

3. (Currently Amended) A method to provide copy protection for a content, the method comprising:

receiving a ~~first~~ authorization code by a conditional access (CA) device;
receiving a programmable user key by the CA device, provided the first authorization code is determined to match a second authentication code stored in the CA device;
generating a local key based on ~~the~~ programmable user key ~~and using an one of the first and second authorization codes provided by a content provider;~~ and
descrambling the content delivered by the content provider using ~~the~~ local key.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 further comprising receiving the user key from the content provider via ~~the~~ a communication channel.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of Claim 3 wherein to provide copy protection for content, the method comprising:

receiving an authorization code by a first conditional access (CA) device;
permitting receipt of a programmable user key by the first CA device if the authorization code grants a right to transfer the user key to the first CA device, the user key is provided by a ~~master-second~~ conditional access (CA) device having the authorization code; and
generating a local key based on the user key and the authorization code; and
descrambling the content delivered to the first CA device using the local key.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the user key is embedded in a medium embodying the content and permitted to be used by the first CA device if the authorization code matches an authorization code stored within the first CA device.

7-8. (Cancelled.)

9. (Currently Amended) A conditional access (CA) device comprising:
a descrambler to descramble a incoming content delivered by a content provider using a local key;

a key generator coupled to the descrambler and adapted to receive a programmable user key when a first authorization code provided to the CA device matches a second authorization code stored within the CA device, the key generator to generate the local key based on thea programmable user key and one of the an first and second authorization codes ~~provided by the content provider, the authorization code is used to control access to the user key by the key generator; and~~

a communication interface coupled to the key generator to receive the first authorization code via a communication channel, ~~the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the communication interface, being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection and a network, further receives the user key from the content provider via the communication channel.

11. (Currently Amended) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the user key is provided by a master CA device having the first authorization code.

12. (Previously Presented) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the user key is embedded in a medium embodying the content.

13-14. (Cancelled.)

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein to provide copy protection for a scrambled content, the computer program product having:

a first program code of a first conditional access (CA) device to descramble the scrambled content delivered by a content provider using a local key;

a second program code of the first CA device to generate the local key based on a programmable user key and an authorization code, provided that the authorization code permits receipt of the user key by the first CA device ~~by the content provider~~; and

a third program code of the first CA device to receive the authorization code.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 15 further comprising a fourth program code to receive the user key ~~from the content provider~~ via a communication channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the user key is provided by a master conditioned access (CA) device having the authorization code.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the user key is embedded in a medium embodying the content.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the authorization code in its entirety is entered by the user.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the first authorization code is provided via a communication channel, the communication channel being a return path for one of a cable connection, a telephone connection and a network.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21~~5~~, wherein ~~the a~~ transfer of the user key to the first CA device occurs if ~~an the~~ authorization code at the master-second CA device matches ~~the an~~ authorization code stored within the first CA device.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The CA device of Claim 9, wherein the first authorization code grants a user a right to duplicate the user key.

25. (Currently Amended) The CA device of Claim 14~~9~~, wherein the key generator is permitted access to the user key when the second authorization code matches ~~an the~~ first authorization code stored at ~~the a~~ master CA device.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising a fourth program code to permit the user key to be ~~transferred from~~ accessed by the first CA device ~~to a second CA device~~ if the authorization code matches an authorization code pre-stored at the first CA device ~~grants a right to duplicate the user key~~.

27. (New) A conditional access (CA) device comprising:
a descrambler to descramble incoming content using a local key;

a key generator coupled to the descrambler and adapted to generate the local key based on a programmable user key and an authorization code, the key generator to transfer the programmable user key to a second CA device if an authorization code stored within the second CA device matches the authorization code; and

a communication interface coupled to the key generator to receive the authorization code via a communication channel.

28. (New) The CA device of Claim 27 being in communication with the second CA device and adapted to transfer the authorization code to the second CA device.